

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
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FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9110
INFO USUN NEW YORK 5297
AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 3 GENEVA 5726

ROME FOR AMBASSADOR AND FOR BIRNBAUM (THROUGH FODAG)
FROM FRANK

WASHINGTON FOR ASST SECY MAYNES

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ECOSOC, UN, EGEN
SUBJ: VISIT OF AMBASSADOR YOUNG TO WORLD FOOD PROGRAM, IFAD
SECRETARIAT, AND WORLD FOOD COUNCIL: VISIT OF FRANK
(IO) WITH AL-SUDEARY

1. ON MORNING OF JULY 9 AMBASSADOR YOUNG, ACCOMPANIED
BY AMBASSADORS GARDNER AND WELLS AND DEPT ASST SECY FRANK
(IO), VISITED MR. TOM ROBINSON, HEAD OF THE WORLD FOOD
PROGRAM, AND HIS STAFF; AMBASSADOR AL-SUDEARY, PRESIDENT
OF THE IFAD PREPARATORY COMMISSION; AND STAFF OF THE
WORLD FOOD COUNCIL.

2. VISIT TO WORLD FOOD COUNCIL WAS RATHER PERFUNCTORY,
AND INVOLVED NEITHER JOHN HANNAH NOR HARRY WALTERS AS BOTH
WERE ON VACATION.

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3. AT WORLD FOOD PROGRAM, QUESTION OF COUNTRY
DISTRIBUTION OF WORLD FOOD PROGRAM ASSISTANCE WAS
RAISED. AMB YOUNG SAID THAT THERE WAS SOME CONCERN IN
WASHINGTON THAT WFP AID WAS NOT REACHING THE POOREST
COUNTRIES BUT HE FELT THAT WE SHOULD BE MOST CONCERNED
WITH MEETING NEEDS OF POOR PEOPLE AND NOT POOR COUNTRIES.
PROGRAMS IN POOR AREAS OF BRAZIL COULD BE VERY USEFUL.

FRANK SAID THAT CONCERN WAS NOT NECESSARILY DIRECTED AGAINST PROGRAMS DESIGNED FOR POOR IN MIDDLE INCOME COUNTRIES BUT THE TENDENCY FOR SOME OF THE POOR COUNTRIES, ESPECIALLY IN AFRICA, TO BE RELATIVELY NEGLECTED BECAUSE OF THEIR INABILITY TO DELIVER FOOD. ROBINSON INDICATED WFP WAS WORKING WITH BILATERAL AID DONORS TO HELP IMPROVE DELIVERY CAPABILITY SINCE WFP COULD NOT PROVIDE LOCAL DELIVERY SERVICES ITSELF.

4. AMB YOUNG THOUGHT THAT THE EMPHASIS OF WFP ON FEEDING PROGRAMS AND ON FOOD FOR WORK WAS CORRECT. BOTH TYPES OF PROGRAMS WERE DIRECTED AT MEETING BASIC FOOD NEEDS OF POOR PEOPLE. HE THOUGHT GAO CRITICISM OF THIS EMPHASIS WAS MISPLACED.

5. QUESTION WAS RAISED OF LEVEL OF WFP AID FOR NEXT BIENNIUM. ROBINSON MADE STRONG CASE THAT DEMAND EXISTED FOR PROGRAM AT LEVEL OF \$950 MILLION. THEY REPORTED ON THEIR EFFORTS TO OBTAIN INCREASED SUPPORT FROM OPEC COUNTRIES WHICH DID NOT SEEM TO BE VERY SUCCESSFUL. AMB GARDNER SAID THAT WE MIGHT USE OUR OWN DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS TO ENCOURAGE GREATER CASH CONTRIBUTIONS FROM OPEC.

6. FRANK SAID THAT ONE CRITICISM OF WFP HEARD IN US WAS THAT THEY DID NOT MOVE COMMODITIES OF MOST INTEREST TO US -- WHEAT AND RICE IN PARTICULAR -- BUT RATHER
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TENDED TO MOVE DAIRY PRODUCTS AND VEGETABLE OILS FIRST. ROBINSON SAID THAT THIS WAS NOT TRUE FOR THIS BIENNIUM AND PROVIDED FIGURES TO SHOW THIS (BEING HAND-CARRIED TO WASHINGTON BY FRANK). IT WAS TRUE IN THE LAST BIENNIUM BECAUSE OF VERY SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCE. BANGLADESH HAD A BUMPER CROP AND STORAGE FACILITIES WERE STRAINED. WFP HELD UP DELIVERIES UNTIL STORAGE CAPACITY WAS FREED.

7. MEETING WITH AMB AL-SUDEARY WAS CORDIAL AND AMB YOUNG EXPLAINED THE STRONG DESIRE OF PRESIDENT CARTER TO ELIMINATE BUREAUCRATIC INEFFICIENCY AND TO KEEP THE BUREAUCRACY OF THE MAJOR INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS FROM GETTING OUT OF CONTROL. HE SAID, REFERRING TO HIS OWN EXPERIENCE, THAT LARGE STAFFS MADE IT DIFFICULT FOR TOP EXECUTIVES TO RUN POLICY -- RATHER THEY TEND TO BE RUN BY THEIR LARGE STAFFS.

8. AL-SUDEARY MADE STRONG PLEA FOR US DEPOSIT OF INSTRUMENT OF RATIFICATION, ARGUING THAT US DEPOSIT WOULD HAVE A SNOWBALLING EFFECT AND BRING OTHERS ALONG.

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AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 3 GENEVA 5726

9. THE NEXT MORNING FRANK MET WITH AL-SUDEARY TO GO OVER SOME OF THE PROBLEMS REGARDING US AND IFAD. FRANK INDICATED CONCERN DERIVED FROM FEELING THAT STAFF OF IFAD WOULD BE HIGHLY STRUCTURED AND HIERARCHICAL AND THIS WOULD PROVIDE BUILT-IN BIAS FOR EXPANSION. FRANK TO BE PERFORMED THAT IT IMPLIED A LARGE STAFF.

10. AL-SUDEARY SAID THAT BASIC FUNCTIONS HAD TO BE 034*94.3\$ -,\$ 85 297)\$?3 #-4\$ 59 3)8.8,-53 -,6 9* 5#3..
FRANK AGREED BUT SAID THE ISSUE WAS TO WHAT DEGREE THEY WERE PERFORMED BY IFAD AND TO WHAT DEGREE THEY WERE CONTRACTED OUT OR PERFORMED BY OTHER INSTITUTIONS. FRANK ALSO SAID THAT FUNCTIONS COULD BE GROUPED AND PERFORMED BY ONE PERSON OR BY ONE UNIT OF THE ORGANIZATION. HE SUGGESTED THAT GENERALISTS RATHER THAN SPECIALISTS WERE APPROPRIATE FOR A SMALL IFAD STAFF.

11. AL-SUDEARY SAID THAT HE NEEDED SOME SPECIALISTS. FRANK QUESTIONED WHAT KIND. AL-SUDEARY SAID HE NEEDED LEGAL, ADMINISTRATIVE AND PERSONNEL SPECIALISTS. FRANK AGREED BUT SAID ISSUE WAS HOW MANY. ON OPERATIONS AND
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POLICY SIDE, THE EMPHASIS MIGHT BE ON PEOPLE WITH BROAD GENERAL EXPERIENCE AND SKILLS TO COMPLEMENT ANY TECHNICAL TRAINING THEY MIGHT HAVE. AL-SUDEARY AGREED THAT POLICY

AND OPERATIONS STAFF SHOULD NOT BE TOO SPECIALIZED. HE ALSO SAID THAT HE WAS QUITE OPEN TO ANY KIND OF GROUPING OF FUNCTIONS IN UNITS AND WANTED TO DISCUSS THIS IN SOME DETAIL WITH ALL CATEGORIES OF COUNTRIES BEFORE ANY FINAL DECISIONS WERE MADE.

12. FRANK RAISED ISSUE OF CANDIDACY PHILLIP BIRNBAUM FOR VICE PRESIDENT OF IFAD. AL-SUDEARY SAID THAT UNTIL QUESTION OF ORGANIZATION OF STAFF WAS SORTED OUT, HE COULD MAKE NO DECISIONS ALTHOUGH HE HAD VERY HIGH REGARD FOR BIRNBAUM. HE HAD TO CONSIDER THE POSSIBILITY OF ONE, TWO OR THREE VICE PRESIDENTS. HE IMPLIED CONSIDERABLE PRESSURE FROM IRAN FOR A VICE PRESIDENCY ALTHOUGH HE SAID HE PERSONALLY FAVORS A SINGLE VICE PRESIDENCY.

13. COMMENT. US HAS THREE MAIN OBJECTIVES IN THE CURRENT IFAD NEGOTIATIONS -- A SMALL UNCOMPLICATED STAFF, A US VICE PRESIDENT, AND NO MORE THAN ONE VICE PRESIDENT. AL-SUDEARY WANTS BADLY FOR US TO DEPOSIT INSTRUMENT OF RATIFICATION AND WILL PROBABLY NOT NAME A US VICE PRESIDENT UNTIL THIS IS DONE AND STAFFING ISSUE IS RESOLVED. IRANIANS WILL PROBABLY HOLD BACK ON THEIR DEPOSIT OF INSTRUMENT OF RATIFICATION, HOPING TO USE IT AS BARGAINING LEVERAGE IN GETTING A VICE PRESIDENT OR OTHER VERY HIGH OFFICIAL.

14. AL-SUDEARY SEEMS VERY TEMPTED TO GO FOR A THREE VICE PRESIDENT OPTION. THIS WOULD HELP GET THE IRANIAN INSTRUMENT OF RATIFICATION DEPOSITED AND MAKE THE CONFIDENTIAL

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SITE ISSUE LESS OF A POSSIBLE FUTURE PROBLEM IN HIS RELATIONS WITH IRAN. HE COULD STILL GIVE THE US A VICE PRESIDENCY. HE COULD GIVE THE LDC'S A VICE PRESIDENCY AND APPEAL TO ALL THREE CATEGORIES OF COUNTRIES. THE STAFFING IMPLICATIONS OF A THREE VICE-PRESIDENT STRUCTURE ARE FAR WORSE TO CONTEMPLATE THAN ANY WE HAVE BEEN DISCUSSING SO FAR.

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15. TO MINIMIZE THE CHANCE THAT ANY MOMENTUM DEVELOPS
FOR MULTIPLE VICE PRESIDENCIES, THE FOLLOWING STRATEGY
MIGHT MAKE SENSE:

(A) TRY VERY HARD TO RESOLVE THE STAFFING ISSUE
AT THIS MEETING OF THE PREPCOM. THE PROPOSAL THAT SEEMS
TO BE EMERGING IS TO RECOMMEND A FIRST-YEAR ADMINISTRATIVE
BUDGET SOMEWHAT LOWER THAN REQUESTED AND PUT LOWER LIMIT
ON STAFF WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT THE STAFF LIMIT
WOULD BE REVIEWED AFTER THE FIRST SIX MONTHS. WHILE
IT MAY BE IMPOSSIBLE AND UNWISE TO AGREE ON AN ORGANIZA
TIONAL CHART FOR THE STAFF, IT MAY BE POSSIBLE TO AGREE
ON SOME GENERAL ORGANIZATIONAL PRINCIPLES -- E.G., A
GROUPING OF FUNCTIONS TO ACHIEVE A SIMPLE NON-HIERARCHICAL
STAFFING STRUCTURE.

(B) IF WE CAN REACH SOME BASIC ACCOMMODATION ON THE
STAFFING ISSUE, WE CAN BE MORE WILLING TO DEPOSIT
OUR INSTRUMENT OF RATIFICATION. THIS MIGHT BE DONE VERY
QUICKLY AFTER THE CURRENT PREPCOM. IT WILL STRENGTHEN
OUR CASE FOR A US VICE PRESIDENCY. IT WILL HELP UNDERCUT
THE BARGAINING LEVERAGE THE IRANIANS COULD HAVE IN HOLDING
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UP DEPOSIT OF THEIR INSTRUMENT AND TAKE AWAY SOME OF THE
ATTRACTION TO AL-SUNDEARY OF A THREE VICE-PRESIDENTIAL
SCHEME. WE COULD ACCOMPANY OUR DEPOSIT WITH A DEMARCHE
IN OTHER CAPITALS, INCLUDING IRAN, THAT NOTES OUR
DEPOSIT AND URGES OTHERS TO DO SO ALSO SO THAT
IFAD CAN GET UNDERWAY EXPEDITIOUSLY. VANDEN HEUVEL

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Message Attributes

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